

Message Text

PAGE 01 LOUREN 00350 241441 Z

73

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 RSR-01 /121 W

----- 024369

R 241154 Z MAY 73

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1957

INFO AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOURENCO MARQUES 0350

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS MZ

SUBJ: TRIAL OF SPANISH CATHOLIC PRIESTS

REF: A) LOURENCO MARQUES A-21, FEBRUARY 23, 1973;

B) LOURENCO MARQUES A-133, AUGUST 22, 1972 (NOTAL)

1. MILITARY SPOKESMAN COL. FRADE TOLD CONGEN OFFICER MAY 23 THAT TRIAL OF TWO SPANISH BURGOS PRIESTS ARRESTED ABOUT YEAR AND HALF AGO IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR ALLEGATIONS RE PORTUGUESE ATROCITIES AT MUCUMBURA WOULD BE HELD IN ABOUT THREE WEEKS AND, LIKE JANUARY TRIAL OF MACUTI PRIESTS, WOULD BE OPEN TO PUBLIC.

2. ON MAY 18 CONGEN RECEIVED CALL FROM PROF. BAREND VAN
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LOUREN 00350 241441 Z

NIEKERK, FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF NATAL, DURBAN, WHO SAID HE WAS VISITING LOURENCO MARQUES ON BEHALF OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF JURISTS AND AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, AS WELL AS SPANISH CONSUL GENERAL IN JOHANNESBURG, TO INVESTIGATE

STATUS OF TWO DETAINED SPANISH PRIESTS.

3. VAN NIEKERK SAID AFTER INITIAL COOPERATION FROM ARCHBISHOP, HE SUDDENLY FOUND ALL DOORS SHUT BECAUSE, ACCORDING TO HIS SOURCE, ARCHBISHOP HAD RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT HE WAS "FRONTING" FOR TWO "COMMUNIST" ORGANIZATIONS. HE WAS NOT ALLOWED TO SEE DETAINED PRIESTS.

4. HOWEVER, VAN NIEKERK OBTAINED DETAILED INFORMATION FROM THE PRIESTS' LAWYERS AS WELL AS FROM CLERICAL SOURCES SYMPATHETIC TO PRIESTS. THIS INCLUDED COPY OF PRIESTS' INDICTMENT, OF WHICH HE SAID HE WOULD SEND ME COPY THROUGH AMCONGEN DURBAN. SOURCES TOLD HIM PRIESTS HAD BEEN DETAINED FOR 16 MONTHS AWAITING TRIAL, AND SINCE END OF PREVIOUS TRIAL OF MACUTI PRIESTS (IN JANUARY) HAD BEEN KEPT IN SEPARATE ISOLATED CONFINEMENT FOR 22 OUT OF EVERY 24 HOURS, BEING ALLOWED VISITORS THREE DAYS A WEEK. THEY ARE SEEN QUITE REGULARLY BY LAWYERS AND FRIENDS, SEEM TO BE IN GOOD HEALTH AND SPIRITS, BUT ARE NOT PERMITTED TO COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER. VAN NIEKERK WAS TOLD MILITARY ARE PUSHING FOR TRIAL, AS ARE DETAINEES THEMSELVES, WHO WISH TO AIR THE WHOLE BUSINESS. ARCHBISHOP ON OTHER HAND WOULD PREFER TO GET THEM OUT OF COUNTRY WITHOUT FURTHER ADO.

5. PRIESTS REPORTEDLY PREPARED ADMIT TO HAVING PREACHED AGAINST PORTUGUESE ATROCITIES AS MATTER OF CONSCIENCE, AND TO SYMPATHY FOR FRELIMO CAUSE.

6. COMMENT: IF TRIAL DOES COME OFF AND IS IN FACT OPEN, IT SHOULD AIR PERSISTENT RUMORS OF PORTUGUESE MISCONDUCT AT MUCUMBURA ABOUT 18 MONTHS AGO, WHICH IN LARGE MEASURE RESPONSIBLE FOR GROWING RIFT BETWEEN MILITARY AND SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF CATHOLIC CLERGY. MAY ALSO RAISE CLAIMS OF SUBSEQUENT ALLEGED PORTUGUESE ATROCITIES, MOST LURID EXAMPLE BEING RUMORED SLAUGHTER OF SEVERAL HUNDRED INNOCENT VILLAGERS IN LAST DECEMBER'S OPERATION SOUTH OF TETE. PORTUGUESE MILITARY OF COURSE DENY THESE SPECIFIC
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LOUREN 00350 241441 Z

INCIDENTS BUT ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WAR IS HELL AND MISTAKES DO OCCUR.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE BACKGROUND INFO ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF JURISTS AND AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, WHICH SO FAR AS WE AWARE ARE LEGITIMATE, NON-COMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONS.
VAN OSS

CONFIDENTIAL

NMAFVVZCZ

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LOUREN00350
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: LOURENCO MARQUES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730558/abqcdzkj.tel
Line Count: 105
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) LOURENCO MARQUES A-21, FEBRUARY 23, 1973; B) LOURENCO MARQUES A-133, AUGUST 22, 1972 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <09-Oct-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRIAL OF SPANISH CATHOLIC PRIESTS
TAGS: PINS MZ
To: STATE INFO CAPE TOWN
DAR ES SALAAM
DURBAN
LISBON
LUANDA
LUSAKA
MADRID

PARIS
PRETORIA
ROME
USUN

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005